

# Current Economic Programs Printed Survey Results: by the *County Business Patterns* Statistics Users Respondent Base

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U.S. Census Bureau  
Current Economic Statistics User Survey

OMB CQM-26 (Rev.5/5/98)

## I. DATA CONTENT

Your answers identifying the survey data you use will help us understand our users' patterns of data use.

1. Which Current Economic Statistics from the Census Bureau do you use? (Mark all that apply.)

### (1) Monthly

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0.3%;	1	None
57.7%;	177	Retail Sales
37.5%;	115	Wholesale Trade
42.0%;	129	Manufacturing/Trade Inventory/Sales
53.4%;	164	Housing Starts
65.1%;	200	Building Permits
42.7%;	131	New Home Sales
41.0%;	126	Value of New Construction Put in Place
31.3%;	96	Housing Completions
23.8%;	73	Expenditures for Residential Improvements
35.2%;	108	New Residential Construction
16.0%;	49	New Mobile Home Placements
30.0%;	92	Monthly Imports and Exports
40.4%;	124	Current Industrial Reports
34.9%;	107	Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, Orders

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Replies 307; Forms 345

### (2) Quarterly

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47.3%;	61	Quarterly Financial Report
84.5%;	109	Current Industrial Reports
7.8%;	10	Federal Assistance Awards Data System
20.9%;	27	Quarterly Tax Survey
7.8%;	10	Quarterly Public Employee Retirement

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Replies 129; Forms 345

### (3) Annual

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55.9%;	193	Annual Retail Trade
42.3%;	146	Annual (Wholesale) Trade
22.6%;	78	Annual Survey of Communications
29.6%;	102	Transportation Annual Survey
28.1%;	97	Service Annual Survey
100.0%;	345	County Business Patterns

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45.2%;	156	ZIP Code Business Patterns
40.0%;	138	Statistics of U.S. Businesses
28.7%;	99	Characteristics of New Housing
52.5%;	181	Annual Building Permits
29.3%;	101	New Residential Construction in Selected Metropolitan Areas
22.6%;	78	Annual Capital Expenditures
62.0%;	214	Annual Survey of Manufactures
41.2%;	142	Current Industrial Reports
15.7%;	54	Research and Development Survey
22.0%;	76	Plant Capacity Utilization
9.9%;	34	Education Finance Survey
15.7%;	54	State Tax Collection Survey
4.9%;	17	Annual Public Employee Retirement
13.3%;	46	Annual Survey of Public Employment
14.2%;	49	Consolidated Federal Funds Report
24.3%;	84	State Government Finances
36.2%;	125	Annual Imports and Exports

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Replies 345; Forms 345

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## II. DATA DELIVERY

The Census Bureau is considering use of the Internet as the primary method of data delivery. By completing the following questions, you will help us retain the most essential delivery formats and design the best possible data delivery service.

(4) 2. How do you receive current economic data now? (Mark all that apply.)

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88.9%;	303	Printed Publications	12.6%;	43	FAX
78.6%;	268	World Wide Web (Internet)	1.8%;	6	Regular mail
54.3%;	185	CD-ROMs	0.6%;	2	hard copy computer run
27.0%;	92	Diskettes	4.4%;	15	Other
12.6%;	43	Direct (E-mail) delivery			

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Replies 341; Forms 345

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- Magnetic Tape
  - tape (CPB)
  - Library
  - TAPE 1/2
  - Check values by telephone
  - also use microfiche in some cases.
  - time-share vendor (private)
  - Internet, ProNet
  - Individual sources using census bureau data
  - sec,Secondary Vendor (R
  - Intermediate Data Vendor.3,4,6,
  - Stat-USA
  - CDRom & Publications in Library
  - FTP
  - building permits printout
  - By phone to construction statistics

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- (5) 3. What format do you PREFER when downloading data for further manipulation? (Mark all that apply.)
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73.8%; 239 Spreadsheet (e.g., wkl, xls, etc...)  
38.6%; 125 Database (e.g., dbf, mdb, etc...)  
33.0%; 107 ASCII delimited  
19.1%; 62 ASCII flat files  
12.3%; 40 Retrieve from print or screen and enter manually  
10.5%; 34 Do not manipulate data  
0.6%; 2 Sas data sets  
2.8%; 9 Other

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Replies 324; Forms 345

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- pdf format
  - TSO files
  - Change to landscape small font 9
  - acrobat
  - Text files: txt. or PRN
  - CD-Rom
  - Also as text or word file
  - Word Document
  - SAS data sets
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4. What capabilities do you want on the Census Internet site? (For each line, indicate the degree of your preferences, from 5 [high] to 1 [low].)
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- (6) a. Direct (E-mail) delivery:
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39.5%; 117 5	16.2%; 48 3	10.1%; 30 1
19.9%; 59 4	7.8%; 23 2	6.4%; 19 Don't know

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Replies 296; Forms 345

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- (7) b. E-mail notification:
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41.4%; 123 5	18.9%; 56 3	8.8%; 26 1
15.8%; 47 4	9.8%; 29 2	5.4%; 16 Don't know

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Replies 297; Forms 345

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- (8) c. Retrieve/display to screen:
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51.1%; 156 5	12.1%; 37 3	7.5%; 23 1
21.6%; 66 4	2.6%; 8 2	4.9%; 15 Don't know

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Replies 305; Forms 345

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- (9) d. Search:
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67.7%; 214 5	8.9%; 28 3	1.6%; 5 1
17.4%; 55 4	1.6%; 5 2	2.8%; 9 Don't know

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Replies 316; Forms 345

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(10) e. Download complete data sets:

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64.0%;	201	5	9.9%;	31	3	2.2%;	7	1
15.9%;	50	4	4.5%;	14	2	3.5%;	11	Don't know

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Replies 314; Forms 345

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(11) f. Download selected data:

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74.3%;	240	5	5.3%;	17	3	1.2%;	4	1
15.2%;	49	4	2.2%;	7	2	1.9%;	6	Don't know

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Replies 323; Forms 345

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(12) g. Software help/tutorials:

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20.7%;	60	5	28.3%;	82	3	10.3%;	30	1
20.7%;	60	4	15.9%;	46	2	4.1%;	12	Don't know

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Replies 290; Forms 345

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(13) h. Publication-quality printing:

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26.8%;	80	5	20.5%;	61	3	14.4%;	43	1
21.5%;	64	4	14.8%;	44	2	2.0%;	6	Don't know

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Replies 298; Forms 345

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(14) i. Charts and graphs:

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25.3%;	77	5	26.0%;	79	3	13.2%;	40	1
18.8%;	57	4	14.1%;	43	2	2.6%;	8	Don't know

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Replies 304; Forms 345

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(15) j. Geographic maps:

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31.5%;	95	5	19.5%;	59	3	11.9%;	36	1
22.8%;	69	4	11.3%;	34	2	3.0%;	9	Don't know

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Replies 302; Forms 345

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(16) k. Other, please specify:

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83.3%;	20	electronic bulletin board	16.7%;	4	Other
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Replies 24; Forms 345

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- Publications like QFR to be in spreadsheet format or mdb for easy data manipulation after downloading.
- Dowlad selected data set according to state, regions, & metro areas
- ACROBAT FILES, which you may include in item h.
- As many items in pdf format as possible = 5

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(17) I. Electronic Bulletin Board (To collect write-ins)

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0.0%;	0	5	0.0%;	0	3	0.0%;	0	1
50.0%;	1	4	50.0%;	1	2	0.0%;	0	Don't know

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Replies 2; Forms 345

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III. DATA USAGE

Your answers describing how you use the data will help us design the most effective Current Economic Statistics retrieval tool.

(18) 5. Do you combine/compare/merge data from more than one source listed in Question 1?

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27.2%;	89	No	72.8%;	238	Yes
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Replies 327; Forms 345

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(19) 6. What time periods do you consider when using these data? (Mark X all that apply.)

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69.0%;	231	trends up to 5 years	41.5%;	139	trends up to 1 year
66.6%;	223	5+ years	0.0%;	0	Other
51.3%;	172	latest 1 or 2 periods			

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Replies 335; Forms 345

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(20) 7. How do you use the data? (Mark all that apply.)

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55.9%;	186	Create value-added products/services
53.2%;	177	Perform patron/client inquiries
26.1%;	87	Republish in newspaper/journal
20.1%;	67	Store reports/printouts for archival purposes
19.5%;	65	Inform marketing decisions
13.5%;	45	Inform investment decisions
9.9%;	33	Locate new sites
0.0%;	0	Other

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Replies 333; Forms 345

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- [none]
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(21) 8. What explanatory information do you consult when using these data? (Mark all that apply.)

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83.7%;	272	Definition of terms
61.8%;	201	Narrative text describing survey results
57.2%;	186	Sampling and estimation methodology
43.7%;	142	Survey design
5.5%;	18	None
2.2%;	7	Other

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Replies 325; Forms 345

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- Not really using on Web.
- Data Dictionary
- Direct contact with Census analysts
- Comparisons to earlier surveys and/or similar data from other agencies--e.g. census to BEA in one estimates.

- Census Bureau Staff
- Source of data
- Phone calls to Census and or DOL

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(22) 9. Do you have any pressing data or information needs that are not currently being met?

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- You should have a central source for sales for all SIC codes. The data could be more timely.
- We are very much interested in unadjusted counterparts of tables 7 & 8 of the FT900 release being made available on internet on the day of release. Publications like QFR also need to be made available in spreadsheet or mdb for us to further manipulate data.
- Regional retail sales estimates (cancelled after 1996)
- Value of the U.S. apparel production reported in the CIR - Need URGENTLY!!
- More local info. (PMSA at least)
- Non-residential building permit data.
- State/MSA non-residential construction data!
- Updated income at MCD level; Census be used to publish Per Capita income annually.
- Finding historic data sets requires going to the library - It would be very helpful if 1980 census data was on the internet as well.
- Retail Trade Monthly - Regional Data Survey - Blue Pages, Building Permits - Non-Resident & Additions.
- Print publications no longer available, yet there is no notice that the print publication will no longer exist. Impossible to find the exact publication on the Internet so clients can compare and update printed data. Current information available but how long will older information remain available?
- Monthly commercial building permit statistics for Putnam Co. New York.
- More information by county.
- Information on nonresidential construction.
- "807" Production-sharing trade at the 2-digit SIC level showing total U.S. import value and the value of U.S. components sent offshore for assembly.
- Printing in ASCII, converted to 6.1. That gives complete graph - 15 columns.
- Foreign trade - exports & imports - by 4-digit (data that had been available in "Trades Employment") - without SIC (& soon NAICS), cannot compare trade with domestic activity.
- Data is often no longer available at county or regional level, which is a big loss to local government. If possible, please reinstate (eg. retail sales). Also, non-residential building permits no longer available.
- Data on residential construction; alterations, renovations and conversions; and county level mobile home shipments.
- No.
- No.
- Data on exports by 3-digit SIC code that previously were calculated from the Annual Survey of Manufacturers--PLEASE RESUME!
- Comparative Statistics on Latin American cities. No local international service trade statistics.
- No.
- Info at small geographic levels, villages, small cities, townships
- Selected salaries for selected industries & occupations.
- More specific value/number of shipments for manufacturing SICs
- local wage by occupation & industry data
- MCD Business Patterns, Massachusetts is doing away with county government, MCD income estimates.
- Timely release of data in an easy-to-access format (ie: XLS, 123, etc.) with revisions and option of pulling complete time series.
- Non-residential building permits--number by type of building.
- The availability of Residential and Commercial Building Permit Data.
- I'd love to see employment data by SIC based on place of residence. Also wish for reconciliation between RIMS, SIC, & NAICS.
- Int'l trade data on internet are inadequate. Only press releases are there. When data are revised, if data are not in the press release, there is no way to get the revisions (ex: monthly data from exhibits 6&7 of FT900).

- Number of Mobile Homes & Value of, by state, on a monthly basis. (Currently only published annually) -- Also, by county, if possible.
- 1) Monthly building permits by stats. 2) Retail sales by states & MSA's.
- No.
- Miss the state retail sales numbers.
- Better capital expenditure data and Better motor vehicle data.
- Commercial building permits.
- Non-residential building permits data nad value of new non-residential construction part in place.
- More detailed retail information.
- Monthly trade data based on export location.
- Yes: Durable goods forecast for up to 12 months. I can't find this info anywhere.
- We are always looking for very current information. We normally use Census dat for historical trends and background.
- Small area employment (place of work) estimates - current #'s.
- MSA-level data and economic projections. New projections of pollution control expenditures (PACE study)
- Yes--Commercial building permits--Bring them back now!!!
- Resume geographic estimates of retail sales.
- MSA level business patterns. Estimates (updated info) on a wider range of demographic variable for counties and sub-counties.
- Current employment by #'s of employees, by SIC, by MCD, by specific employer ID only.
- Annual sales figures for all sales by SIC S962 on all sales through vending (coin operated) machines.
- Commercial Building Permits for MSA's. This program was discontinued by the Census a couple of years ago.
- Current input-output reports; 5 yrs. is too old!
- Monthly Retail Sales - Nassau-Suffolk, NY MSA (Data Discontinued?)
- YES! Bring back non-residential state/local permits authorized! This was a severe loss for interpreting local economic trends. Also, more geographic detail, more frequently.
- Commodity flows data with 3 digit SIC value of shipments between states-The state to state flows.
- Commercial Construction Permit Activity
- Seasonal Population - estimates. More information on affordable housing-market.
- I would like housing dat for the State level other tan building permit data.
- State, county & local permit date for nonresidential construction. Use to get this.
- Monthly Retail Sales for U.S. Metropolitan Areas.
- Downloadable ASM files in xls format would be great.
- More frequent substate mtg. stats (annual survey is state wide only)
- In general, I would like more information to be available at the county level and by place.
- Household Expenditure Data at State Level.
- Regional retail sales (metropolitan area) monthly non-residential building permits by metropolitan area monthly.
- Economic data broken up by county & subcounty levels (particularly data that does not fall under the privacy disclosure requirements).
- Pollution abatement expenditures by SIC
- 1). Employment in types of projects, such as residential construction. 2). Construction productivity measures.
- None that I can think of at the moment
- We want SIC data at the product level by region. Please make every effort to provide locational tags to Canadian & Mexican data. Full country data profiles are not sufficient.
- Commercial & industrial building permit activity!
- Business starts by SIC at the County level.
- Two pieces of information that the Census Department had done in the past--metropolitan estimates of retail trade and metro commercial construction permit activity--both annual.
- Would like Government Finance series in print form.
- Relatively current statistics at the county and sub-county geographic levels.
- 1). GDP 2). Need to see how prior dat releases of components affect quarterly advance.
- The 1997 Census is not out yet.

- Non-residential construction that was deleted from current const. series.
- Want monthly retail trade by state & MSA back.
- Non-residential Building permits.
- Housing stats and completions by state, MSA Value of construction put-in-place by state, MSA
- Quarterly Financial data that separates publishing from printing (SIC 27)
- Yes, Non-residential permits and regional retail sales.
- More extensive time series!
- Place and regional economic data sets in relation to population/race trends.
- Geographic data by product class, especially in county business patterns. Totals at the 4-digit industry level aren't detailed enough.
- Utilization of data for merging with Atlas GIS. Convert landview to include information down to Block level.
- I would love something like census lookup for building permits and imports & exports.
- We always require information broken out by minority group status, even if they are forecast.
- Average expenditures per residential improvement project for single family homes by region. Average value for residential permits by region.
- Exports by state of origin-hard to get on CD-ROM, would like crosstab and states by Canadian provinces.
- Service Data on an annual/quarterly/monthly basis by 2,3, & 4-digit SIC!
- Housing Starts by State; Retail Sales by State
- Meaningful state-level trade data
- Non-residential permits!!
- The annual survey of manufacturers needs to be in ASCII or pdf format; as well as pdf. We spend too many hours re-entering the data.
- Crime--not all areas of the U.S. participate in their state uniform crime reports program, so it becomes difficult to make informed decisions.
- Need detailed PPI data.
- Permits for non-residential by place.
- We would like to see more timely Congressional district data than the decennial. Also, on your Web site, we would like better instructions for downloading files.
- Imports and exports by 4-digit SIC. Very important--in print. Publication form--quarterly.
- Current local (county) data on any of the following: retail sales.
- We would like to see more economic data and analyses at the state & MSA level.
- Census of retail trade 1997 merchandise sales report - need ASAP
- In general, estimates and figures at higher geographic levels, such as block groups or zip + 4's.
- Geographic Area Retail Sales
- MSA retail sales
- Under question #1, would probably use more of the data but do not receive it.
- Permits for remodeling and non-residential construction.
- Population Projections
- Commercial, Industrial, and other non-residential construction put-in-place!
- Non-residential construction data outside California! Bring it back!
- Data at the metropolitan area level, e.g. retail sales, commercial building permits (office, industrial, retail).
- We have a need for long historical time series and for long-term forecasts.
- Far better data on service sector; tons of coverage. Need data on enterprises as well as establishments.
- small area data
- Bring back retail sales at metropolitan area level.
- sub-national retail trade
- Timely business indicators for MSA's.
- Commercial Building Permits County level on a timely basis.
- Census bureau data by county: retail sales, housing starts, manufacturing stats, imports/exports, new home sales.
- Commercial building permits, Commercial real estates sales.
- I very much regret the termination of the state and metro area monthly census of retail trade several years ago.



- Estimates of coverage by county for building permits better state and local data.
- Just wish more data were available at county or metro level in a timely fashion
- Very disappointed that non-residential building permit data is no longer being tracked--our models rely on this!

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#### IV. INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION ISSUES

We will soon begin restructuring the Current Economic Surveys based on the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Your answers will help us ensure that these surveys continue to provide the economic information needed by markets, policy makers, and business people. For more information on NAICS, see the Bureau's web site: <http://www.census.gov/NAICS>.

(24) 10. At what levels of detail do you MOST FREQUENTLY USE industry data classified by Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)? (Mark all that apply.)

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70.3%;	234	4-digit industries (or maximum detail I can get)
48.3%;	161	2-digit major groups
45.6%;	152	Sector totals (SIC division); e.g., Manufacturing or Retail Trade
40.8%;	136	3-digit industry groups
3.3%;	11	NA (don't use SIC-based data)
4.2%;	14	Other

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Replies 333; Forms 345

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- 8-DIGIT D & B Database
  - NAICS, Duns' Product Codes
  - Greater detail when available
  - sub-groups within 4-digit
  - Name of Industry & # of employees
  - I don't use this much, but others in the agency do!
  - Would like to have 6 or 7 digit SIC
  - County Level totals
  - NAICS will make sector totals useful.
  - We create the confidential data from url records.
  - Product Codes
  - Only sell the NAICS
  - Whatever is available below 4-digits
  - Use SIC categories extensively
- 

(25) 11. Were you aware that the SIC system is being replaced by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)?

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19.8%;	66	I was unaware of this
23.7%;	79	I am partially aware, but lack details
56.6%;	189	I am aware and understand some implications

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Replies 334; Forms 345

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12. Would you like to receive more information about NAICS?

(26) Yes, please send me - (Mark all that apply)

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85.7%;	186	A brochure that explains NAICS	34.1%;	74	Conference announcements
68.7%;	149	NAICS implementation plans	4.6%;	10	Other

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Replies 217; Forms 345

- A copy
- The reference book of classifications
- Info on how to reconcile two systems.
- Contacted by local information office fo Bureau.
- A manual and numerical list
- I am awaiting CD-ROM!
- We bought the big NIACS book earlier this year--has it been updated?
- Already know
- Already have all the information I need.

(27) No Thanks -

64.4%; 76 I will check the Census Bureau's web site ([www.census.gov/naics](http://www.census.gov/naics))  
 35.6%; 42 I don't need more information about NAICS

Replies 118; Forms 345

## V. USER PROFILE

Please tell us about yourself so we may serve you better.

(28) 13. Type of organization.

32.4%; 110 Government	1.2%; 4 Library
31.5%; 107 Business	0.9%; 3 Regional Planning Commission
19.1%; 65 Academic/Research	0.6%; 2 Chamber of Commerce
6.2%; 21 Association	0.6%; 2 Economic Development
3.5%; 12 Media	2.9%; 10 Other
1.2%; 4 Individual	

Replies 340; Forms 345

- Information and consulting firm
- Public Business Library
- Economics Consulting
- non-profit economic development org.
- Economic Development District State Data Center depository.
- Labor Union
- Consultant
- Library (University)
- University
- Corp. Library

(29) 14. Do you work in your organization's library?

36.9%; 122 Yes                      63.1%; 209 No

Replies 331; Forms 345

(30) 15. What is your affiliation with the Census Bureau?

63.9%; 214 None	0.6%; 2 Affiliate
12.8%; 43 State Data Center	0.6%; 2 Affiliate Data Center
5.4%; 18 Business/Industry Data Center	0.6%; 2 Affiliate of State Data Center
3.3%; 11 Census Information Center	0.6%; 2 Customer
1.8%; 6 State Data Center Affiliate	10.4%; 35 Other

- SDC Affiliate
- State Data Center affiliates
- Affiliate of the State Data Center
- Do not understand?
- Affiliation with SDC
- Richmond Public Library, BST Dept. 101 E. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23219
- Under the Mi State Data Center
- Associate Stat Data Center
- Employed by US DOC/BXA
- State Data Center Affiliation
- Data Center Affiliate
- Cooperator in disseminating permits authorized data
- Census Liason
- Technical Assistance Center
- Derek E. Santos, 700 W. Jefferson, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0032
- Formerly on Advisory Board
- Affiliate Agency
- Government
- Depository
- BIDC affiliate
- Fund the CIR-MA35N
- Economic Development Distirct State Data Center depository
- Congress
- Former State Data Center
- Affiliated w/SDC & BIDC
- Heavy user
- Sell Census documents
- GPO Depository
- Local Census Affiliate
- Trade Association
- Associate Data Center
- They do work for our Division
- Consumer of housing data
- Federal Depository Library

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(35) 20. May we contact you to follow up on this questionnaire?

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84.7%; 277 Yes

15.3%; 50 No

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Replies 327; Forms 345

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(36) Question 21. Remarks:

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- You should include questions on technology usage in your census questions (in the 10 year census).
- It would be nice to have all reports available in spreadsheets format. For any publication reports that contain large tables and data, mdb file format would be an ideal too.
- Do not sell/rent my phone # to telemarketers.
- When we were unable to order with our GPO account #, we lost a lot of time in establishing a Census acct #. I am behind in ordering.

I do not have the hardware at my desk to search on the Web. The public does have workstations. This will hopefully change shortly.

- Paper is quicker for us. Print editions. We can in seconds deliver the info to patrons.
- Cost is often a factor with the use of Census information. Ideally, the Census Bureau could position itself similarly to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. BTS does an excellent job of disseminating transportation-related information. It would help researchers throughout the country if Census could apply the BTS template to its socioeconomic data.
- I make extensive use of Census Bureau data. My greatest wish would be to have access to disaggregated data (ie. below the national, and state levels) on a more timely basis.
- I've been trying to get Census data since 1991. I've used NTDB CD-ROM, StatUSA CD and now the Internet site. As soon as I learn the system really well-you change it. After I loaded the StatUSA CD--The NTDB CD would not work. We need older figures going back to the 1980's. It's impossible to run NTDP, then StatUSA on the same PC. I really hate the StatUSA CD.
- 1). It is important to be able to retrieve data in easy to use formats (spreadsheet or ascii)- "pdf" formats are convenient to print, but difficult to use. 2). Please see question 9. 3). We are concerned about the discontinuity in time series data that will occur with NAICS. The 1987 SIC change was a significant problem-NAICS will likely be much worse. Any help from Census (bridges, publication of data in both classifications) would be a great help to data users.
- I support the move toward Internet data delivery because it should make data available faster and at a lower cost. the challenge is to make it easy for the widest variety of data users as possible to retrieve the data they need.

Example: I use County Business Patterns to track number of establishment for certain industries by state. I believe that users on the Internet currently can select only one year at a time and one state at a time. the ability to put together summary tables based on selections would help a lot.

- I have proposed buying the SIC statute for years with no luck. NAFTA had it come before we could get this done. We now have separate classification just for apparel. It only took 30 years.
- Fedstats web site is very useful--

Thank you

- I use the data to find customers for vacant commercial-industrial properties I have listed, or to find properties for prospective customers-investors.
- 1). I cannot say that this is pressing, but I would like to see the results of the state-level retail trade series. 2). I need data files that are easily read into software such as SAS and SPSS. I also tend, when I am looking for something, to require as much history as I can get, because that is what is demanded of me. It would help me a great deal if all federal agencies that release data (especially Census, BEA, and BLS) would release an actual data file (e.g. GDP.DAT rather than GDP. BEA) at the same time as the press release, much as The Federal Reserve does with its industrial production notices. More history data on CD-ROM products, such as USA Counties would sometimes be useful as well (say 1940 or 1950 if available).
- A published paper version should always be made available for purchase to the public. Information being available on the internet is nice, yet it is a completely different animal than having a hard copy version of the information. An example: I can receive my news off the internet, but I still prefer to get my newspaper in the morning for reading at my leisure away from a computer.
- Joe Cantalupo is no longer in service to the County of Rockland.
- When is 1997 Census to be available? Please keep as much of the data in print as possible--  
Thanks!
- Census bureau data is always helpful--the data you provide enhances our publication and enables readers to make informal business decisions.
- Thanks for asking!
- You have set up an excellent web site that is easy to use, fast and usually supplies me with the information I'm seeking.
- The efforts to provide electronic format data are a vast improvement over paper/hard copy publications. They have increased the accuracy and utility of the data sets.
- The level of detail varies depending on the type of data requested. Mostly county-level data is used because this is what is available.

Although the technology of the internet is available to tie up my phone line browsing for information

- to print out is very time consuming, whereas a printed report is much easier to access & reference. Not all government entities have the capacity to keep pace with new, faster, computer hardware & software.
- Your credibility is a great strength.
- --Strongly support new PACE (Pollution Abatement and Control Expenditures) studies

--New BEA projections are needed (GSP, MSA-level, etc).

- I am probably not typical of you average user. Have 35 years with USDA-limited computer experience-Basically use printed Census data re: population-social conditions-employment income, etc. & cost indexes as I am an economist.

Thanks.

- I prefer e-mail contacts rather than phone, as I am frequently not available at my phone for extended periods.
- You've done a fine job in organizing your internet site. As a librarian, a primary concern is the archiving of information. Will historical files/data/reports be kept on the net indefinitely? As you plan for net-based information, keep in mind the historical aspects as well as the current need for up-to-date economic information.
- We used to receive from state employment agency using worker comp data lists by geography MCD; by SIC; by name of employer--the number of employees. We were well aware this was sensitive data for competitive reasons of employer confidentiality. Unfortunately, someone at another agency apparently released some of this data to the "public" and now it is unavailable--what is left is very inadequate, unsorted data--difficult to interpret. We can not do adequate community profiles by consolidated data any more. How can similar data be obtained?
- Being able to download from the web site has generally worked very well for us. The only troublesome aspect is that the page numbers of the PDF documents differ from the page numbers in their table of contents (e.g. - printing page 18 gets you page 12 of the document).

A big "thank you" to the Census specialists who have been most helpful and polite when we've called with questions.

- We serve a varied clientele (academic, business, government, and private citizens) and work across many subject. Census data are absolutely vital to us. Our biggest need is for more geographic area detail more frequently (state, county, place, if possible). Users often do not understand the 5 yr. gaps and lag time for the major Economic Surveys that offer such detail, much less the 10 yr. decennial cycle. The internet is a great help in speeding "publication", but we find access is not yet universal. We still download and print entire documents for guide reference and historical purposes. I am concerned about just how long the electronic media will remain accurate and usable as technology changes. How will the Bureau deal with these problems?
- Stat-USA is an extremely useful tool for retrieving data. I would like to see more files in spreadsheet format and the ability to download particular segments.
- I prefer retrieving info from your web site. I particularly like documents in pdf format because they look nice & are easy to use. Output can be ported directly to reports already in progress.
- Please contact ASAP: Bob Davidson, Gov't Information Service Section Palm Beach county Library System Service

3650 SUMMIT BLVD. 33406  
(561) 233-2600, ext. 164  
email Robert ID@PB.SEFLIN.ORG

- Great idea! Thanks for asking.
- The more information you can make available via your web site the better. Particularly at the county and place levels.
- We recommend that the Census prepare and distribute a list of annual publications, along with their anticipated release dates.
- Data validity in the NAICS project is one of our concerns. Has any provision been for cross checks of the data?
- Respondent provided voluminous, illegible comments throughout that could not be deciphered to

- record.
- I am disappointed that the Census Bureau has cut back on selected metropolitan data services, namely retail sales estimates and commercial building permit activity. While I understood Budget pressures, it seems that lower cost alternative could have been implemented rather than elimination (perhaps annual figures rather than monthly). It is important that the Federal govt. provides timely information that can capture the dynamics of regional growth as well as natural growth on a good level of data services.
- Sorry for the delay--the survey didn't arrive until 8/12/98.
- I received the survey on August 7th--so was not able to return it in the time requested!

Our office is very interested in any information on the implementation of NAICS--as our researchers will be using it a great deal.

- We still prefer to have reports generated as a hard copy for our library. If this is no longer possible, an e-mail notification service for new publications available on the Internet would be helpful.
- PDF files are big and we have to retype the data for analysis. Having raw or spreadsheet/database data would save us much time. BLS's web site is a good one to study.
- State and Local Government Finance Estimates, by State. We appreciate having this information on the Internet but wish the report was still published. Is there any way of compiling the data sooner? It is almost too old to be of any use.
- I think that this user survey is an excellent idea; you should poll users periodically.

I would be happy to participate in a users' panel or advisory group.

- Desperately need this information from NAICS. Emerging technology/company information requested everyday.
- We analyze the local situation, and compare it with national and regional trends. National and regional data have little value if there is no NYC equivalent (i.e. monthly retail trade).

NY area PMSA's are a joke. Stop suppressing to CMSA due to secondary suppression. Suppress the 2nd largest PMSA instead. The CMSA is the metro area.

- We look forward to working with you on the upcoming Census.
- Tables which have no column headings and which one must consult separate documents are highly confusing.
- Data available by MSA, county and sub-county data not available at these levels is generally not applicable to the work we do. In a (very) few cases (like state and local gov't finances) we use state level data.
- Tutorials and/or manuals should be sent out with Census products. I have fiddled enough with Landview III to utilize some of its versatility. Other colleagues won't due to lack of time to waste on self-teaching (fumbling).

Landview III should allow searches down to the Block level & just empty the fields which raise concerns regarding privacy at that level.

- I would like a copy of the report developed from this survey or an explanation of why I can't have a copy.
- So far, the lookup approach has been not valuable to me. It has some limitations. CD's are my second favorite.
- Thank you for asking. We use economic files on a limited basis.
- The web site is generally very helpful a lot of information--sometimes difficult to locate information wanted.
- I appreciate receiving this survey.
- We're still waiting for an order blank so we can order the 1997 Economic Census.
- The Web site is great, but it is sometimes difficult to quickly find the information I'm seeking. Also, I am mystified by your downloading parameters. Things should be in dbf format, which is more universally accessible to database managers than mdb.
- Census is always quick and dependable. Great job!
- We also make heavy use of the US Statistical Abstract.
- I think the advancements on the Web over the past few years have been excellent. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has put much of this data in raw form on their FTP site. I'd like to see the Census

- Bureau make the FTP site more accessible and have more information.
- We are in the site selection/economic development function. Census data is absolutely crucial to our function, especially the ability to compare areas.
- My colleagues and I use your printed and electronic resources regularly, for a variety of economic and population requests. We find your resources to be user-friendly.

We have a few suggestions listed in question 9.

I have always found your data user staff members who answer the phone to be helpful and responsive to our rush requests.

- We currently do not use as much national data as we have in the past. We hope that access thru the Internet will continue to increase so that what we may need in the future can be quickly found.
- I think many users are still going to want the hard copy publications. I know many are available in PDF formats but these are not conducive to shelving.
- Will the 1997 ECON Census use the NAICS codes? Seems like I heard that it would use SIC, not NAICS--In light of how long it traditionally takes to get the ECON Census reports (2-3 years), I would hope the data would conform to NAICS, rather than SIC, Standards.

P.S. Hope you win the "Sampling" battle in the Supreme Court.

- We love the Census Bureau! Clear publications indices and ease of search engines on the Internet site are very important to us. Also, choice of how to download data is good, not all users need or can use spreadsheet software.
- Will all Census data be available only via the Internet? My customers prefer printed format. Thank you.
- Keep up the good work. I appreciate this survey.
- More documentation and instructions for obtaining data from gohper directories would be helpful.
- I appreciate the value of your service! Educators use information for social profit.
- Keep up the good work.
- I use your "Telephone contacts for Data Users" and phone for help and information--of ten. I am very pleased with the response and helpfulness of all the people at Census, from receptionists to analysts. It would be nice to get it regularly. I forget, from year to year, to send for updates, until I notice that some contact names are out of date.
- I'd like to receive a list of publications at a State Data Center is entitled to receive on the regular basis. I'd also like to get the description for the data we receive.
- If feasible, include columns heading names (labels) in spread sheets, as well as row labels. Not now done in monthly building permits diskettes and STF3-A CD-ROM, for example.
- I like the fact that the Census Bureau Produces many of its documents in the .pdf format, these are easy to print, bind and archive in our library. However, what is even more important to our firm is the ability to manipulate the data, and easily bring it into a data base or spreadsheet. If I had to choose I would prefer the raw data to the printable format.

I might use more of the data listed in question now that I know it exists.

- Good to see this survey! Dealing with you via the Internet and mail is going well. However, trying to reach people over the phone is still a major headache.
- Glad more of your publications are being made available on the Internet! Suggestion for format of employment data-group by years first, then industry. Is there some alternative for obtaining non-residential building permits.

Figure 1: